

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

MINUTES

West Hartford Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities

April 3, 2017 7pm-8:15pm

West Hartford Town Hall, Rm 308

1. Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by Meghan/Kelley

Members Present:

Joshua Rucker, Jonathan Slifka, David Siegel, Rebecca Hajosy, Michael Haeflich, Joe Kalache (Administrative Liaison, Department of Human and Leisure Services), Deb Polun, Kelly Fournier, Megan O'Neill

Others Present:

Barbara Lerner from the Chamber of Commerce and Bill Neagus from Favarh

Absent:

Nick Delaney, Melinda Montovani, Patricia Groves

2. Approval of Minutes

a) Minutes of meeting held January 9, 2017 were approved by Rebecca/David.

3. Announcements

a) Joshua announced that Jonathon's Dream has its opening Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 2:00 pm, rain or shine.

4. New Business

a) Chamber of Commerce-Barbara Lerner-Executive Director talked about the Chamber. The Chamber was founded in 1907 and has 500 members including 15 to 20 non-profits. You do not need to be a business in town to join, just a business wanting to do business in West Hartford. The Chamber has a lot of networking opportunities including, but not limited to, Business After Hours, AM Connections, luncheons, and an economic development committee.

b) Favarh-Bill Neagus Bill oversees employment opportunities at Favarh, which is the Farmington Valley Arc. There are 3 main programs. 1. Group Supported Employment-groups of 4 that work 4 hours a day at 12 to 15 job sites. They work under a sub-minimal certificate to cap pay at minimum wage. They also charge a 20% administrative fee. 2. Independent/ Competitive Employment. These workers are on the payroll of the company, but still gets resources from Favarh. 3. Contract Services-For older of behavioral issues so they work at Favarh.

In addition, they have internships and transition programs.

c) Capital Projects and Improvements Update and Budget-Joshua prepared a letter to the town counsel regarding a list of capital projects that the commission supports in our efforts to increase accessibility to West Hartford. It was agreed that the Commission would submit the letter to the Town Council.

b) Celebrate West Hartford Planning-Rebecca Hajosy-We are looking for material for the table and some type of item to hand-out to draw people to the table. Awareness is our main purpose. We decided upon asking for donations of gift cards and holding a raffle. Joshua agreed to reach out to Jonathon's Dream about something for the table and to obtain a gift card or two. Joe agreed to speak with Linda Geisler about the numbers to expect and other possible ideas and help.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7 pm in Room 217.

Note: ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO MAY NEED AN ACCOMMODATION TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING SHOULD CONTACT HUMAN AND LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 860-561-7578, AT LEAST FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

Adjournment at 8:25pm. Rebecca/David

Respectfully Submitted by Rebecca Hajosy